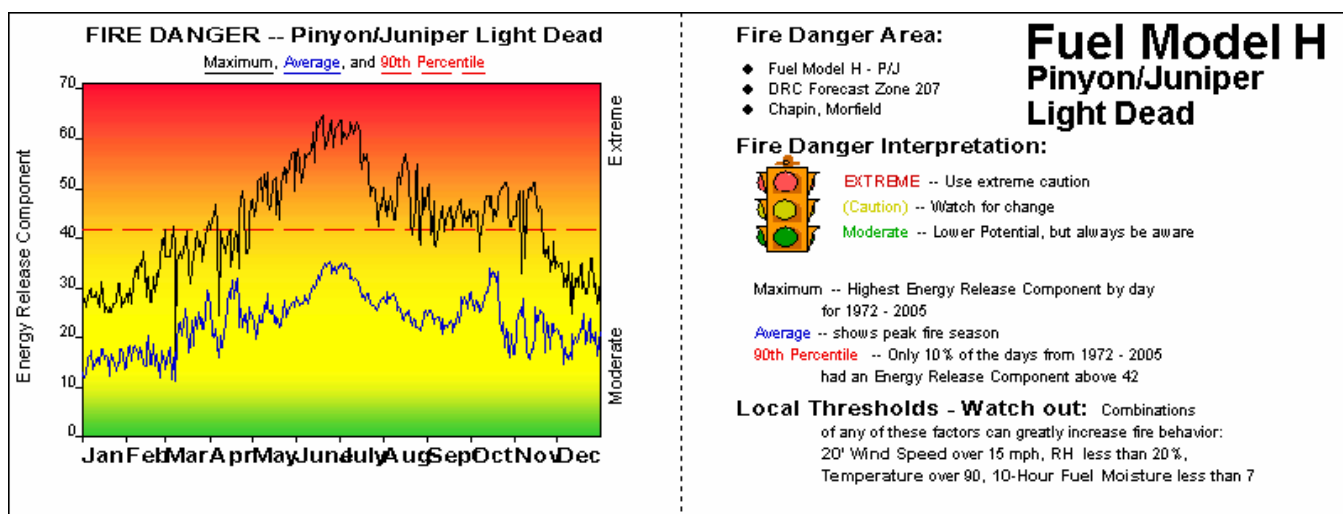




Southwest Colorado Fire Danger Fuel Model H – Pinyon/Juniper (Light Dead)



Fuel Model H PINYON/JUNIPER (LIGHT DEAD) LOW ELEVATION (Under 8,500') - The short-needed conifers are represented by Fuel Model H. In contrast to Model G fuels, Fuel Model H describes a healthy stand with sparse undergrowth and a thin layer of ground fuels. Fires in H fuels are typically slow spreading and are dangerous only in scattered areas where the downed woody material is concentrated. However, with the recent increase in mortality affecting most pinyon and juniper stands in southwest Colorado expect to see a moderate amount of dead pinyon in these stands. In addition, an increase in cheat and other grasses and forbs has resulted in fairly continuous fine fuels underneath these pinyon and juniper stands. Increased fine dead fuels in the crowns of the pinyon combined with an increase in grass fuels on the surface will contribute to more intense fires and fires that exhibit faster rates of spread. Increased spotting may also be experienced due to the increase in receptive fuels.

**Dates to Remember: House Creek Fire, 7/16/98, 800 Acres, BI-35, ERC-8
Coyote Fire, 6/17/86, 3,000 Acres, BI-17, ERC-30**